



Today's road to recovery.



Tomorrow's expressway.

(Direct Access to Physical Therapists under Medicare.)

As Congress moves to modernize Medicare, Direct Access to physical therapists should be part of the plan. APTA members from every state in the nation are in Washington to ask their members of Congress to help improve Medicare by supporting Direct Access.

Legislation now before Congress (HR 792 / S 493) recognizes the drawbacks of having to obtain a referral prior to seeing a physical therapist – delays in treatment for Medicare beneficiaries that result in higher costs, lower functional status, increased hospitalizations, and more patient frustration.

It has been shown that Direct Access to physical therapists results in significant cost savings, appropriate utilization, and a lower number of patient visits when compared to referral-initiated physical therapy.

Medicare beneficiaries should have the same access to physical therapists as non-Medicare patients in their state, and HR 792 / S 493 provides that access.

Residents in 37 states already enjoy some degree of direct access.

HR 792 / S 493 recognizes that licensed physical therapists are well qualified to evaluate and treat patients without the need for a referral. Physical therapists are educated at the post-baccalaureate level and receive extensive education and clinical training.

More than 90 members of Congress have demonstrated their support for Direct Access by co-sponsoring the "Medicare Patient Access to Physical Therapists Act" (HR 792 / S 493). APTA's 64,000 members urge you to join them today in supporting access to physical therapists for Medicare beneficiaries.

For more information, go to the American Physical Therapy Association Web site at www.apta.org, send an e-mail message to govt_affairs@apta.org, or call 703/706-8533.



American Physical Therapy Association
The Science of Healing. The Art of Caring.™